

GUIDE TO THE AK5 LEPCHA FILE

[The Lepcha file consists of eleven sources of which two are translations from the German. The main sources are by Geoffrey Gorer (1: Gorer) and Joh Morris (2: Morris), the field data of both being collected during the same months of 1937. Gorer's volume is more strongly oriented toward the interrelationships of culture and personality than is that of Morris, but taken together they give a good picture of Lepcha culture. Their material is brought up to date and amplified by the inclusion of five articles by René de Nebesky-Wojkowitz (3: Nebesky-Wojkowitz, 4: Nebesky-Wojkowitz, 5: Nebesky-Wojkowitz and Gorer, 6: Nebesky-Wojkowitze, and 8: Nebesky-Wojkowitz). These articles include data on hunting and fishing, funeral ceremonies, legends, and other aspects of ceremonial. A section from a work by H. H. Risley (9: Risely) gives some anthropometric data. A selection from Joseph Hooker's journal (7: Hooker) adds material on Lepcha culture during the middle of the nineteenth century, while the article by Waddell (10: Waddell) discusses Lepcha song styles. 11: Hermanns discusses myths, supernatural beings, beliefs in and descriptions of the land of the dead, religious practitioners and ceremonies, and related information.

In general, this is a well-rounded file, containing adequate material on most aspects of Lepcha culture. The only major lack is in the sphere of language, on which little information exists. Two special marking decisions were made: information on the Mum, a combination shaman, magician and diviner, has been placed in category 756, and information on general protective ceremonial being placed in category 796. The file was processed between 1958 and 1962.]